

Mr. Speaker, we must get this policy right. As I said, we must get this policy right.

I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that these reforms are about maintaining the American value of generosity, a generosity that says no American should go to bed hungry each night. But, Mr. Speaker, it also strengthens that great American tradition of self-efficiency that compels us to work to improve our own stations in life.

By doing this, by modernizing SNAP, by making these changes that incentivize work, encouraging collaboration, and promote and improve access, we will be ensuring better nutrition for our American families. And, as budgets tighten in our country and across this government, we will be preserving a program that must be preserved for future generations.

#### HONORING JIM HASLAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, one of the finest men I have ever known, Jim Haslam, turns 87 today.

Mr. Haslam is one of the greatest leaders Tennessee has ever had, and he is certainly our greatest philanthropist.

He came to the University of Tennessee at the age of 17 to play football for the legendary football coach, General Robert Neyland. He played on some of the greatest teams in Tennessee history, teams that won almost every game, losing only four games in the 3 years that Jim Haslam played.

In 1958, he bought a small gas station in Gate City, Virginia, on the Tennessee line. I believe I read at one point that he paid just \$6,000 for that four-pump station. Through much hard work and long hard hours, he slowly built that one little gas station into the Pilot Flying J chain. He is still involved in the business today.

We frequently tell people in the military: Thank you for your service.

That is a good thing to do. However, we don't show nearly enough appreciation for people who start small businesses, turn them into bigger businesses, and provide good jobs for people and their families.

The Pilot Flying J Company now has over 750 travel centers in 43 States and in Canada, and provides jobs for over 27,000 people. Very few people in this world can say that they are providing jobs for 27,000 people.

Jim Haslam has now contributed over \$100 million to the University of Tennessee. He and his family have contributed very large sums of money to almost every good cause in east Tennessee, in addition to the university.

He and his wife, Natalie, do not just contribute money. They are very active in all sorts of civic and charitable groups in Knoxville.

He is also a very patriotic man and has great love for this country. He

served his country in our Nation's military.

He is one of the biggest contributors to the Republican Party in this Nation and is personally involved in many campaigns. He has been a very good friend and supporter for both me and my late father, and I am very grateful to him.

Most important of all, Jim Haslam has been a good family man. He and his late wife raised three children. Then, many years ago, he married Natalie, a longtime friend; and between them, they raised six outstanding children.

One of his sons, Bill Haslam, is our great Governor in Tennessee and a chairman of the Republican Governors Association.

His other son, Jimmy Haslam, now leads the Pilot Flying J Company and owns and operates the Cleveland Browns football team.

Through hard work, honesty, dedication, and simple human kindness, Jim Haslam has lived the American Dream. He has touched thousands of lives in good and positive ways. This Nation is the greatest country in the history of this world because of people like Jim Haslam. This Nation is a better place today because of the life he has led. I salute him on his 87th birthday and give him best wishes for many, many more.

#### GRANDFATHER RANGER DISTRICT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Grandfather Ranger District of the Pisgah National Forest and community partners.

Recently, the Grandfather Ranger District of the Pisgah National Forest received the coveted 2017 Restored and Resilient Landscapes Award from the U.S. Forest Service southern region.

The Ranger District received this award due to efforts to produce a healthy and more diverse forest. This project, which began in 2012, has exceeded its goal of restoring 40,000 acres of forest for parkgoers to enjoy.

Specifically, collaborative partners have worked together to remove understory fuels to decrease wildfire risk, restore shortleaf pines, and increase wildlife openings, while improving areas for deer and other wildlife to forage.

These combined efforts of the Grandfather Ranger District and collaborative partners have yielded fantastic results for our community and our forests.

I know that these efforts will benefit generations of outdoor enthusiasts and conservationists for years to come. I salute the Grandfather Ranger District and the many partners who earn the Restored and Resilient Landscapes Award.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 40 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YODER) at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Lord, You are powerful and strong, yet You bend to Your people and show them mercy and sustaining grace.

Help the leaders of our Nation make wise decisions in our day. May they look to You for guidance every step of the way until we stand in Your light forever. Set us all on a path that will lead to peace and security.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. LAWRENCE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### URGING PRESIDENT TO NOMINATE A SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSIONER

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly urge President Trump to nominate a Social Security Commissioner without further delay.

The Social Security Administration has been without a Senate-confirmed Commissioner for over 1,700 days. That is almost 5 years. This is totally unacceptable. The American people need a Commissioner, and they need one now.

Without a Commissioner, Social Security is just spinning its wheels. Important decisions are being put off and service has deteriorated.

I ask the President to act now to nominate a Commissioner so that Social Security can provide the service Americans want, need, and deserve.

#### COMMEMORATING FORMER PERRIS MAYOR DARYL BUSCH

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Daryl Busch, the former mayor of Perris, California, who passed away earlier this month.

As a U.S. Navy veteran, a small-business owner, and a pillar of the Perris community, Mayor Busch's commitment to public service was never in doubt. His professionalism, class, and compassion are just a few of the many reasons he was elected mayor of Perris for six consecutive terms.

During his tenure, the city emerged from serious financial challenges to become a stable and growing community, and his leadership was critical to completing the Metrolink extension, which now connects Perris to neighboring communities. The foundation he built during his 17 years of public service will benefit the city and its residents for years to come.

My thoughts are with Kay, his wife of 57 years, their son, Barry, and the rest of the Busch family.

#### KEEPING OUR CHILDREN INSURED

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of helping children who, through no fault of their own, have no health insurance. These are children who are ineligible for Medicaid, and their family cannot afford private insurance. CHIP, or Children's Health Insurance Program, helps these children receive coverage.

In Kansas, more than 79,000 vulnerable children are enrolled in CHIP. That is why I have worked to preserve and strengthen it during my time in Congress.

Last month, I voted for reauthorizing CHIP for 5 more years, through 2022. This invaluable benefit to kids in Kansas and across the country was included as part of a bipartisan bill

called the CHAMPIONING HEALTHY KIDS Act, which passed the House last month and now awaits further action in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that the Senate will act quickly to pass this bill and reauthorize the important CHIP program to ensure that families and children who rely on this program remain covered.

#### GOP TAX BILL INCENTIVES: AUTOMATION OVER JOB CREATION

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address my concerns with the GOP tax bill.

Calling this bill the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is simply wrong.

Adding \$1.5 trillion to our deficit and assuming—and basically hoping—corporations will create jobs is irresponsible. There is no guarantee jobs will be created and no incentive for job training. This is wrong.

In America, we have a skilled trade crisis. We cannot continue to operate our economy and jobs without skilled trades. We must give incentives to invest in new technology and equipment for our corporations, but we must do that while demanding that they also invest in skilled trade training and investment.

Tax reform was a real chance to close the skills gap, reinvest in our workers, and create a 21st century job training program.

#### IMPORTANCE OF TAX REFORM

(Mr. MITCHELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to emphasize the importance of the reductions and reforms reflected in H.R. 1, which the conference committee will work on today.

People in my district and across America await meaningful tax reform. Most Americans paid too much in taxes. In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported last year that Americans paid more money in taxes than they spent on food and clothing. It is no wonder that nearly 60 percent of Americans believe our current Tax Code is unfair—it is.

America's Tax Code is currently chock full of special interest deals, while families living paycheck to paycheck and job creators need lower and simpler taxes now.

Throughout this process, my approach has been to evaluate this tax legislation from one question: Will this improve the lives of the vast majority of the people in my district?

That answer is, absolutely, yes.

The Tax Foundation projects that the House plan will save the average family in Michigan about \$2,200 a year. That is real money.

Americans deserve to keep more of what they earn. I look forward to reviewing the conference report and finalizing the tax reduction package that will provide relief to all Americans.

#### LET'S VOTE NOW

(Mr. SCHRADER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge House Republicans to put aside partisan politics and pass the Dream Act.

This fall, I have shared story after story from the House floor of young Oregonians who have benefited from DACA. Sitting at this desk behind me is a discharge petition which will bring a vote on the Dream Act now.

Unfortunately, this will require 24 of my Republican colleagues to join us in support. As of today, we only have two. This is despite the fact, if leadership put that bill on the floor, it would have overwhelming bipartisan support. We must act on this.

It is clear that the administration is, at best, problematic. When asked about the status of DACA, this President said: They shouldn't be very worried; I have got a big heart. But it was only a few short months later that he announced an end to the DACA program.

The Dream Act must be passed by Christmas. We should do it today. Continuing to delay a vote on the Dream Act basically puts 800,000 recipients at risk, is irresponsible, and puts those lives in limbo.

These young folks are doctors and teachers. The path forward is foggy, at best, right now. They deserve a better future. Let's vote now.

#### RECOGNIZING 2017 CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE WINNERS

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three high school students from Kennewick, Washington, as the winners of Washington's Fourth District 2017 Congressional App Challenge.

Seth Florman, Damon Fuller, and Kyler Zimmerman spent many hours creating and refining an app they named Powerhouse, which enables the user to take on the role of businessowner of an energy company. These students designed the app to illustrate an energy company's responsibilities to the community and to draw attention to the challenges energy providers face.

Thank you to our panel of judges and to the engineers at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory who will be providing the winners with a tour of their great facility.

The Congressional App Challenge highlights the value of computer